

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

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Razvoj čebelarstva in društvene organiziranosti čebelarjev Zgornje Gorenjske

IZVLEČEK

Slovenija danes v svetu velja za zelo pomembno čebelarstvo državo z dolgo in bogato čebelarstvo tradicijo, ki jo zastopajo pomembni slovenski in na Slovenskem delujoči strokovnjaki. V uvodu prispevka je opisana kratka zgodovina slovenskega čebelarstva, ki se v drugem delu nadaljuje v podrobnejši opis razvoja čebelarstva na Zgornjem Gorenjskem od Valvasorjevih časov do srede 20. stoletja. V zadnjem delu prispevka sledi predstavitev razgibanega razvoja društvene organiziranosti zgornjegorenjskih čebelarjev, ki so danes vključeni v sedem lokalnih čebelarstev.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

čebelarstvo, čebelarstva društva, zgodovina čebelarstva, kranjska čebela, Čebelarški muzej, Zgornja Gorenjska

ABSTRACT

DEVELOPMENT OF BEEKEEPING AND BEEKEEPERS SOCIETIES IN UPPER CARNIOLA

Slovenia has a global reputation as an important beekeeping country with a long and rich tradition of beekeeping, represented by eminent experts who were either born or active in Slovenia. In the introduction, the contribution presents a brief history of Slovenian beekeeping tradition. In the second part, it provides a more detailed description of the development of beekeeping in Upper Carniola from the days of Valvasor to the mid-twentieth century. The final part of the contribution presents the turbulent development of societies of Upper Carniolan beekeepers, who are currently organised into seven local beekeepers societies.

KEY WORDS

beekeeping, beekeepers societies, history of beekeeping, Carniolan honey bee, Museum of Apiculture, Upper Carniola

SPLETNE STRANI

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S U M M A R Y

Development of beekeeping and beekeepers societies in Upper Carniola

Slovenia has a global reputation as an important apicultural country with a long and rich tradition of beekeeping, represented by eminent experts who were either born or active in Slovenia. Many describe the breeding of bees or beekeeping as “the poetry of agriculture”, implying that bees are bred not only for their honey and pollination of agricultural plants, but simply out of love for them. Not surprisingly, beekeeping in Slovenia developed into a cultural practice that significantly differs from other beekeeping practices around the globe. In Slovenia, beekeepers have always kept the Carniolan honey bee (*apis mellifera carnica*), which is currently the second most populous honey bee species in the world.

The first major shifts in the development of Slovenian beekeeping occurred in the eighteenth century, during the period of Enlightenment. The spread and progress made in beekeeping as an important economic activity in the Habsburg Monarchy was also encouraged by Empress Maria Theresa, through

establishing agricultural societies and apicultural schools. Beekeeping was most developed in Carniola. Master beekeepers of that time, such as Peter Pavel Glavar, Janez Janša in Giovanni Antonio Scopoli, demonstrated their knowledge in beekeeping through practical work and apicultural treatises. Owing to their classical treatises and scientific findings, all three aforementioned master beekeepers of the eighteenth century are still held in high esteem not only in Slovenia, but across the world.

The nineteenth century was, also in beekeeping, marked by many technical inventions that revolutionised beekeeping practices. One of the most important novelties was the invention of a beehive with a movable comb, followed by local Slovenian variants. Another characteristic of this period was the vibrant trade in Carniolan honey bee, taxonomy studies, and the time when beekeepers began to organise themselves into societies. A crucial role in this regard was also played by some beekeepers that were either born or active in Upper Carniola, such as Luka Porenta, Mihael Ambrožič, Franjo Jeglič, Donat Jug, and Jernej Černe.

The earliest attempts to organise beekeepers societies were recorded as early as the eighteenth century. The first genuine beekeepers society was founded in Upper Carniola in 1883, under the name “Čebelarstvo in sadjarsko društvo za Kranjsko” (Carniolan Beekeepers and Orchardists Society). Technological progress, beekeepers societies, world trade in honey bees, as well as publishing and the professionalization of beekeeping were also phenomena characteristic of the twentieth century. A very turbulent development of beekeepers societies in Upper Carniola was punctuated by constant reorganisations, associations and disassociations of beekeepers into beekeepers clubs, families and finally local societies. The Upper Carniolan (modern Gorenjska) town of Radovljica has the only museum specialising in beekeeping heritage and the town of Lesce boasts the biggest beekeeping research and education centre.